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WASHINGTON CITY, ITS FOUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT.

BY FREDERICK L. FISHBACK.

(Notes on an illustrated lecture for the Society, November 21, 1916.)

“History teaches us to hope.” One cannot know the history of Washington without having unbounded faith in its future and in the future of the nation. The growth of the nation itself is reflected in the development of its Capital. Any story about Washington City, however, is incomplete which does not tell of the various places at which the Continental Congress, and the Congress under our present Constitution as well, met prior to the establishment of the seat of government on the Potomac, and how it came to be located here.

It seems strange that the Continental Congress was such a wandering body. It met for the first time September 5, 1774, in Philadelphia, in Carpenters’ Hall which had been constructed four years earlier as the home of the Carpenters’ Company, a society of Master Carpenters of the City and County of Philadelphia organized in 1724, which had for its object instruction in architecture and the assistance of its members who through accident were in need of support, and of the widows and minor children of such members. From Carpenters’ Hall, the Congress moved to the old State House on Chestnut Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets, which had been erected between 1729 and 1734, and which soon after the Declaration of Independence was adopted there came to be known as Independence Hall, so that its original use as the seat of British au-

thority in Penn's Province has been almost forgotten.

In 1776, a committee from the Continental Congress waited upon the young widow, Betsy Ross, and employed her to make the first flag of thirteen stars and thirteen stripes which was adopted as the national ensign. She was carrying on the upholstery business of her husband, John Ross, who had lost his life thus early in the Revolution, and her home which was also her workshop was only a few blocks from the meeting place of Congress. It stood on Arch Street which Dr. Weir Mitchell tells us in his delightful story of Hugh Wynne was formerly called Mulberry Street, coming to be known as Arch Street because Front Street, near the Delaware River, was carried over it by an arched bridge.

On December 12, 1776, on the approach of the British troops under Lord Cornwallis, Congress adjourned to Baltimore. Its sessions began there December 20, 1776, in a building which stood on the corner of Baltimore and Liberty Streets, and continued in that city until February 27, 1777, when it adjourned to meet again in Philadelphia, re-assembling there March 4, 1777. September 18, 1777, the military situation necessitated the removal of the Congress again, and on that day it adjourned to meet at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which had been decided upon September 13, as the place where it should convene whenever the anticipated necessity for leaving Philadelphia should arise. It met in Lancaster one day only, September 27, 1777, the day after the British under Lord Howe entered Philadelphia. The session was held in a building in the center of the city on the site of the present monument to the men and boys from Lancaster County who fought for the Union. From Lancaster the Congress adjourned to York, Pennsylvania, at which place it convened Sep-

tember 30, 1777. Sir Henry Clinton supplanted Lord Howe as Commander of the British troops in Philadelphia, May 11, 1778. The British departed from the city June 3, 1778, and the American troops under Benedict Arnold immediately took possession. The Congress continued its sessions in York until Saturday, June 27, 1778, when it adjourned once more to the city of Brotherly Love and resumed its work there Thursday, July 2, 1778. Philadelphia remained its meeting place thereafter throughout the Revolution and until June 21, 1783, when by reason of a threatened attack against Congress by some of our own unpaid Pennsylvania soldiers, who had but recently enlisted and who had seen no real service, it was obliged to leave the city. It adjourned, to meet at Princeton or Trenton, as the President of the Congress, who at that time was Elias Boudinot, of New Jersey, might direct. It would seem that the meeting place was left to be fixed by him in order that the soldiers who were threatening the Congress might not know at which place to re-assemble to continue their intimidations when it convened again. At any rate, upon Boudinot's call, the Congress met at Princeton only nine days later, June 30, 1783, in old Nassau Hall of Princeton College, and its sessions were held there until November 4, 1783. On the twenty-sixth of that month, it began its sessions at Annapolis in the old Capitol of the British colony of Maryland, continuing there until June 3, 1784. There, on December 23, 1783, George Washington, happy that peace had come and that he might take up again the quiet pursuits of life at his Mount Vernon home, returned to Congress his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army.

In "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage," Byron asks: "Where are thy men of might thy grand in soul?" and

answers: "Gone glimmering through the dream of things that were." Important events of the past sometimes seem so hazy to us that we need to see old records and documents concerning them in order to realize that they actually occurred. It is, therefore, worth while to read that commission itself. Here then is that certificate of authority from the Continental Congress under which Washington acted throughout the War:

"COMMISSION AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. IN CONGRESS.

"We the delegates of the United Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New Castle, Kent & Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina

"To GEORGE WASHINGTON Esquire

"We reposing especial trust and confidence in your patriotism, conduct and fidelity do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be GENERAL AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF of the Army of the United Colonies and of all the forces raised or to be raised by them, and of all others who shall voluntary offer their service and join the said army for the defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof. AND you are hereby vested with full power and authority to act as you shall think for the good and welfare of the service.

"AND we do hereby strictly charge and require all officers and soldiers under your command to be obedient to your orders, & diligent in the exercise of their several duties.

"AND we do also enjoin and require you to be careful in executing the great trust reposed in you, by causing strict discipline and order to be observed in the army and that the soldiers are duly exercised and provided with all convenient necessities.

"AND you are to regulate your conduct in every respect by the rules and discipline of war (as herewith given you), and punctually to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as you shall receive from this or a future

Congress of the said United Colonies, or a committee of Congress for that purpose appointed.

“THIS COMMISSION to continue in force until revoked by this or a future Congress.

“By order of Congress,

“Dated, Philadelphia, June 19th, 1775.

“JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

“ATTEST, CHAS. THOMSON, *Secretary.*”

By the authority contained in this commission George Washington assumed command of the Army, July 3, 1775, under the celebrated elm at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Washington's return to Congress of his Commission was an act of great solemnity. Mr. Green, the editor of the *Maryland Gazette*, wrote:

“Here we must let fall the scene—few tragedies ever drew more tears from so many beautiful eyes as were affected by the moving manner in which His Excellency took his final leave of Congress.”

The return of the Commission is commemorated by one of Colonel John Trumbull's paintings in the rotunda of the Capitol at Washington. When we look upon that picture we ought to remember that while Washington was a soldier when his country called and a statesman when it needed him in civil life, he was first of all a tiller of the soil and happiest when he could be on his Virginia plantation.

From Annapolis, the Congress moved to Trenton, New Jersey, holding its sessions there from November 1, 1784, until December 24, 1784, when it adjourned to New York, meeting in old Federal Hall January 11, 1785, and remaining there until the Congress which was elected under our present Constitution succeeded it on March 4, 1789.

From this review it will be seen that during the

Revolution and in the few years immediately following it, covering a period of not quite fifteen years, the Continental Congress met three times in Philadelphia and once each in seven other places. This flitting about from place to place was undignified to say the least, in any government, young and weak though it may have been, and George Washington did call it the "Infant Nation" but it was especially humiliating when it was compelled to leave Philadelphia to escape the attack by our own soldiers in 1783, the Philadelphia authorities and those of Pennsylvania being unable to protect the members of the Congress. Moved by these things to see that it was important that the government should not have its capital within the borders of any state but that it should possess its own city, govern it as it wished and give it such protection as it required, a clause was inserted in our Constitution which was framed at the Convention held in Philadelphia in 1787, providing that:

"Congress shall have power to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States."

Acting under this clause, which the dignity and independence of the Republic required, when our First Congress under our present form of government met in New York, it provided by the Act approved July 16, 1790, for locating the seat of government in Philadelphia for ten years, from 1790 to 1800, thus giving time to determine upon the best location on the Potomac for a permanent capital and for the construction of the necessary public buildings at such place.

It was only after much contention between the North and South, however, for the honor of having the capital

that Congress finally passed the Acts authorizing it to be located on the Potomac. Twenty-two municipalities sought the prize. Several states offered the requisite area to the federal government. Pennsylvania and New Jersey offered it jointly, while Maryland and Virginia each offered the entire ten miles square to which the Constitution restricted the Federal District. Congress debated the subject a long time. The North being the creditor section of the country was especially desirous that the debts incurred by the states in carrying on the Revolution should be guaranteed by the new general government in some way, and Alexander Hamilton of New York, the first Secretary of the Treasury, of whom Daniel Webster said "He smote the rock of the national resources and abundant streams of revenue gushed forth," suggested to Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, Secretary of State, that if the South would agree that the new federal government should assume those debts, the North would acquiesce in the desire of the South to have the Capital. Thus, through a compromise, an agreement on this important question was reached, and the seat of government was located on the Potomac.

It is on this give-and-take plan that much important legislation is secured today. Human nature is ever the same.

The Convention which framed our present Constitution met in Philadelphia in 1787, and on March 4, 1789, the day which had been fixed for commencing the operations of government under that Constitution, it had been ratified by Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, and New York, in the order named, on various dates between December 7, 1787, and July 26, 1788. The Constitution was rati-

fied by North Carolina November 21, 1789, and by Rhode Island May 29, 1790. Vermont in Convention ratified the Constitution January 10, 1791, and was by an Act approved February 18, 1791, admitted into the Union "as a new and entire member of the United States," being the fourteenth state.

The First Congress elected under our present Constitution undertook to begin its work in New York March 4, 1789. A quorum of the Senate, however, was not present until April 6, when eleven States were represented. John Langdon of New Hampshire was chosen president pro tempore, for the purpose of counting the electoral vote which had been cast for President and Vice-President. This being done messengers were sent to notify George Washington and John Adams of their election. Charles Thomson and Sylvanus Bourne notified Washington and Adams respectively. The First and Second Sessions of the First Congress were held in Federal Hall, and there George Washington took his oath of office as the first President of the United States, on April 30, 1789. The Sub-Treasury in Wall Street now occupies the site and Washington's First Inauguration there is commemorated by the heroic statue in bronze on the steps of the building. The very stone on which he stood when he took the oath is imbedded in the south wall of the cash room of the Sub-Treasury.

The Second Session of the First Congress and the last Session of Congress held in New York, convened January 4, 1790, and adjourned August 12, 1790, and on the thirtieth of that month President Washington set out for Virginia.

On December 6, 1790, the third session of the First Congress convened in Philadelphia, which had been determined upon in the Act of July 16, 1790, as the temporary seat of government. On Saturday, November

28, 1790, the President and Mrs. Washington arrived and took possession of their new mansion in that city.

During the decade that Philadelphia was the temporary capital, that city was visited by three scourges of yellow fever. The first was in 1793. The population of that city in 1790, at the taking of our first decennial census, was 28,522, and of her suburbs, 13,998, the total being 42,520, of whom 273 were slaves. In the pestilence of 1793, from August 1 to November 9, there were 4,031 burials, almost one in ten of her entire population, city and suburban, or one in six of the population of the city proper, where the disease really prevailed. These figures are given by James Parton in his "Famous Americans of Recent Times," in connection with his story of the noble work of Stephen Girard in caring for the sick and burying the dead during that terrible epidemic. During this pestilence of 1793, President Washington and the officers of the general government moved to Germantown, then six miles from the city, but since 1854 an incorporated part of it. The other yellow fever epidemics during the ten years that the seat of government was in Philadelphia occurred in 1797 and 1798.

In 1790, when the capital was moved there, it was the largest city in the land, New York being second with a population of 33,131, of whom 2,369 were slaves. Boston's population at that time was 18,038. There were no slaves then in that city or in the state of Massachusetts, slavery having been already abolished throughout that Commonwealth.

George Washington took his oath of office as President the second time in 1793, in Philadelphia, in the building which stands at the corner of Sixth and Chestnut Streets. At this place also John Adams became President in 1797. This building, west of Independence Hall and connected with it by a colonnade, had been

erected since the Continental Congress left Philadelphia in 1783, and was used by Congress and the Executive, while the structure at the corner of Fifth and Chestnut Streets, east of Independence Hall and similarly connected with it, was occupied by the United States Supreme Court.

The first session of the Sixth Congress adjourned in Philadelphia May 14, 1800, having, by an Act approved the previous day, directed that the short or second session should begin in Washington November 17, 1800. Without such special Act of Congress for fixing the day of meeting in November, Congress under Section 4 of Article 1 of the Constitution would not have met until the first Monday in December, the day designated in that instrument for the assembling of Congress in the absence of legislation by Congress fixing a different day. A quorum of both Senate and House was not present in Washington, however, until November 21, 1800, which may therefore be considered as the day on which the legislative branch of the government was established in Washington.

The last term of the United States Supreme Court in Philadelphia began Monday, August 4, 1800, Oliver Ellsworth being Chief Justice, and adjourned Friday, August 15, 1800. The Supreme Court assembled in Washington, February 2, 1801, but a majority of its members was not present until February 4, on which day John Marshall, the great expounder of the Constitution, who had received his commission from President Adams a few days earlier, viz., January 31, 1801, qualified as Chief Justice, continuing in office until his death on July 6, 1835. He served longer than any other Chief Justice of the United States, but Associate Justice Stephen J. Field, who was commissioned by President Lincoln March 10, 1863, and retired December 1, 1897, after being on the bench thirty-four years, eight

months and twenty-two days, had a service longer by three months and sixteen days than that of Chief Justice Marshall, and therefore the longest of all the seventy-one men who have served on that great tribunal since its organization. It occurs to me to say here that an end was put to the usefulness of the Liberty Bell in Independence Hall on July 8, 1835. While being tolled for Chief Justice Marshall, who had died in Philadelphia two days earlier and whose body was being conveyed to the wharf to be sent to Virginia, a crack developed of eight or ten inches in length. An attempt was made to use the bell on Washington's birthday in 1843, when the crack was so greatly enlarged that since that day it has been merely a silent memento of the "days of '76."

The removal of the Executive Departments of the government from Philadelphia to Washington was completed by June 14, 1800. President John Adams arrived at the permanent capital on the fourth of that month. The President's House, as what is called the White House was styled in the early days, was not yet ready for occupancy, and the few days he was in the city that summer he spent at Tunnicliff's Tavern. President Adams returned to Washington in November, 1800, and the President's House, although far from being finished, was first occupied by him and Mrs. Adams at that time.

When Washington became the seat of government in 1800 it contained 109 brick houses and 263 frame, in all 372, sheltering a total population of about 3,000. Complete legal jurisdiction over the District of Columbia and of the people residing therein was taken over from Maryland and Virginia and assumed by Congress on February 27, 1801.

The cornerstone of the President's House was laid October 13, 1792, and that of the Capitol, September

18, 1793, both by George Washington. On August 24, 1814, both buildings were burned by the British. The Congress met during the winter of 1814-15 in the building on the north side of E Street between Seventh and Eighth Streets, which was being used as the Patent Office and Post Office. For three winters thereafter Congress met in the buildings at First and A Streets, N. E., which have been reconstructed several times. During the Civil War they were used as a prison in which Confederate Soldiers were confined. Congress began its sessions in the rebuilt Capitol, December 7, 1819. President Monroe's annual message of that date opens with congratulations on the event, in the following words:

"The public buildings being advanced to a stage to afford accommodation for Congress, I offer you my sincere congratulations on the recommencement of your duties in the Capitol."

President Monroe took up his residence in the rebuilt White House on September 17, 1817.

At the time that the transfer of the Nation's Capital from Philadelphia to Washington was made in 1800, the annual salaries paid to the federal employees here amounted to only \$125,881. In 1802, two years after the transfer was effected, there were only 126 federal employees in the city. On July 1, 1915, when the latest accurate statistics were compiled, there were 38,571 people in Washington who were on the pay rolls of the Executive Departments, the Government Printing Office, the Interstate Commerce Commission and in the service of the government of the District of Columbia, and their compensation amounted to \$44,028,660. To the foregoing must be added the 96 Senators and 435 Representatives, two delegates and three resident commissioners, or 536 in all, who receive salaries of \$7,500

each, which amount to \$4,020,000 a year, with \$12,000 a year for the Vice-President, and \$4,500 in addition to his salary as a member of the House of Representatives to the Speaker, making his total salary \$12,000 a year also, or a total of \$4,036,500 to the Senators and Representatives and the presiding officers of the two Houses; 566 employees of the Senate, who receive about \$800,000 per annum; 904 employees of the House of Representatives, who receive approximately \$1,200,000 per annum; 548 employees of the Library of Congress, receiving salaries aggregating \$501,684 per annum; judges of the United States Supreme Court and of the other courts in the District of Columbia and the employees of those courts, numbering in all over three hundred who receive compensation amounting to over \$600,000 a year; 1,058 employees of the Washington City Post Office with an annual compensation of about \$1,058,000; an increase since July 1, 1915, of about 600 in the force then employed at the Navy Yard with additional wages amounting to \$615,886, and 1,252 employees of the War Department who are not in the clerical service of the department proper, who receive about \$1,017,690; so that there are all told in the City of Washington about 44,600 employees who receive compensation amounting approximately to \$53,850,000 per annum.

When the government was moved to Washington in 1800 it was far from being a satisfactory place of residence. The city was laid out in the wilderness. They "took to the woods" for a Capital City. It was the first time that a government had actually gone into the wilds and selected a site for a capital and laid out its city on a well-defined plan. Australia is the second country to pursue such a course, and only two or three years ago sent a commission to America to study the plan of Washington, with a view to laying out as beau-

tiful a city, or improving upon it if possible. As beautiful as Washington is today, the Minister from Portugal, the Abbe Corea, who was considered one of the greatest wits of his time and who in 1816 called it "The City of Magnificent Distances," so named it purely in derision. In that day there was little but distance in the city. As late as 1842, Charles Dickens, after his visit, wrote that "Its streets begin in nothing and lead nowhere."

"He laughs best who laughs last," however, and now as we stand at the Capitol and look off for miles upon the broad and smoothly paved streets and avenues, we may smile at the jesting Portuguese and thank him for giving the city the name which fits it so perfectly today.

Truly it is "The City of Magnificent Distances."

Now, when one realizes what the journeyings of the Continental Congress were he concludes at once that it was almost a government on wheels, and he sees in its vicissitudes the reasons which led up to the selection of a permanent seat of government. It is desirable to state the important facts in connection with the establishment of that permanent capital city.

The new seat of government was laid out under the authority of three Commissioners, Thomas Johnson, David Stuart and Daniel Carroll, appointed by President Washington January 22, 1791. These Commissioners called the Ten Miles Square provided for in the Constitution the District of Columbia and the Capital City the City of Washington, though they had not been given authority by Congress to name either. George Washington himself modestly referred to the city of his name as the Federal City. This appears in a letter which he wrote to Dr. William Thornton who designed a winter home for Washington at the Capital. This house has been demolished recently to make way for the extension of the Capitol Grounds to the magnificent

Union Station which the railroads entering Washington have erected on a monumental scale as their part toward the upbuilding of the Capital of the Nation. This residence was being built on North Capitol Street, two blocks north of the Capitol, at the time of Washington's death. His letter to Dr. Thornton, who was also the architect of the Capitol, is as follows:

"Favored by Thos. Law, esq.

"MOUNT VERNON, December 20, 1798.

"*Dear Sir—*

"Enclosed is a check on the Bank of Alexandria for \$500 to enable Mr. Blagden, by your draughts, to proceed in laying in material for carrying on my building in the Federal City.

"I saw a building in Philadelphia of about the same front and elevation that are to be given to my two houses which pleased me. It consisted also of two houses united—doors in the center—a pediment in the roof and dormer windows on each side of it in front—skylights in the rear.

"If this is not incongruous with rules of architecture I should be glad to have my two houses executed in this style. Let me request the favor of you to know from Mr. Blagden what the additional cost will be.

"I am, dear sir,

"Your most obdt. hble. servt.,

"GEORGE WASHINGTON.

"Willm. Thornton, esq."

The first Act of Congress, dated July 16, 1790, providing for the permanent seat of government on the Potomac, required that it should be located between the Eastern Branch of the Potomac and the Conococheague Creek which flows into the Potomac at Williamsport, Maryland, about twenty miles north of Harpers Ferry, that interesting historic and scenic spot at the junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, fifty miles northwest of Washington on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. A second Act of Congress, ap-

proved March 3, 1791, really after tentative surveys had been made, authorized the three Commissioners who were laying out the Federal District to place the southern point as far south as Jones Point where Hunting Creek flows into the Potomac, at the southern extremity of Alexandria. By this Act, and it was undoubtedly its purpose, it was possible to place Alexandria, Washington's market town, in the Ten Miles Square, and the Commissioners accordingly began at Jones Point, the southernmost spot which could be selected. Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick laid the cornerstone of the new Federal District there April 15, 1791. This cornerstone is very near the base of the little lighthouse which every tourist from Washington to Mount Vernon by steamer sees on his right at the point of land south of Alexandria. From this point lines were run ten miles to the northwest and ten miles to the northeast. Then the lines parallel to these were run, making the ten miles square provided for in the Constitution of the United States as a permanent seat of government. The land taken was in Prince George's and Montgomery counties in Maryland and Fairfax county, Virginia.

On October 21, 1669, Captain Robert Howsen in payment for bringing 120 colonists to Virginia was granted by Governor Berkeley 6,600 acres of land extending along the Potomac from Hunting Creek or, as it was then known, Indian Cabin Creek, to a point opposite My Lord's Island, now Analostan Island, lying between the present city of Washington and the Virginia village of Rosslyn. Captain Howsen sold his land to John Alexander, who in 1677 sent some settlers to occupy it. The first settlement where Alexandria now is was known as Belle Haven, probably because there was between two points of land at the north and south ends

of the settlement a safe harbor for the small vessels of that day. In 1748, by Act of the Colonial Legislature of Virginia, the formation of the town of Alexandria, so named for the early proprietor of the land embracing it, was authorized.

That part of the present city of Washington west of Rock Creek which is locally still called Georgetown was laid out in pursuance of an Act of the British Province of Maryland of June 8, 1751, twenty-four years before we declared our independence of Great Britain and forty years before the District of Columbia was carved out of Maryland and Virginia. The small tract which was originally embraced in Georgetown belonged to George Gordon and George Beall, and the town was laid out during the reign of George II. It does not appear to be known whether Georgetown was named for George II or for the two Georges who owned the land.

The Act of Congress approved March 3, 1791, provided that all public buildings at the permanent seat of government on the Potomac should be erected on the Maryland side of the river. It is easily seen that in the course of time those who lived on one bank of a river nearly a mile wide would tire of contributing to the upbuilding of a city on the other side, and on the demand of those residing in the portion of the District of Columbia which came from Virginia it was retroceded to that state in pursuance of an Act of Congress approved July 9, 1846. Since that time the District of Columbia has embraced only 69.245 square miles instead of one hundred square miles as originally laid out. Of the present area almost exactly sixty square miles are land. The boundary line between the District of Columbia and the state of Virginia is at low-water mark on the Virginia shore of the Potomac. This is so because Virginia never had jurisdiction over the Potomac, for Charles I in the charter of June 20, 1632,

included in the grant to Lord Baltimore, the river itself in the following words:

“And all that Tract of Land within the Metes underwritten (that is to say) passing from the said Bay, called Delaware Bay, in a right Line, by the Degree aforesaid (Fortieth Degree of North Latitude), unto the true meridian of the first Fountain of the River of Pattowmack, thence verging toward the South, unto the *further Bank of the said River, and following the same on the West and South*, unto a certain Place, called Cinquack, situate near the mouth of the said River, where it disembogues into the aforesaid Bay of Chesapeake.”

The Washington Monument is practically in the center of the original District of Columbia. To be exact, the Pan-American Building, only a few hundred feet northwest of the monument, which houses the organization having for one of its objects the development of trade among the nations of the western hemisphere, stands where the diagonals of the Ten Miles Square intersected, and therefore at its very center.

The District of Columbia, as the country existed at the foundation of the government, was very centrally located between the north and the south. Moreover, it is easily seen that those who lived beyond the Alleghany Mountains, few to be sure in those days, could reach the seat of government through the Potomac Valley more readily than they could any other point on the Atlantic seaboard. But as the Nation expanded and the boundless West was acquired, there came to be expressed frequently a demand for the removal of the capital to the geographical center of the enlarged Republic. St. Louis was most frequently suggested. This proposition was advanced as long as it could be, but it was heard seldom after our Civil War because the men who fought and died for their country fought and died that the government at Washington might live. Washington was the concrete object of their devotion

Thereafter the government was not bound merely by the historical ties of two generations to Washington as a capital, but the spot came to be sacred ground by the sacrifices made for the preservation of the government of which it was the seat.

The District of Columbia was not merely at the geographical center of the new Republic but it was also very near the center of population when it became the actual seat of government in 1800, the exact center of population at that time being almost due west of Baltimore and due north of Washington, not more than twenty miles from the latter city.

The fact that there was discussion as to the removal of the Capital City may have had much to do during the early days in preventing the city's upbuilding, the paving of its streets and its beautification generally. It should be remembered, however, that until 1878, regardless of the great amount of government property and of the fact that the government obtained the land for the streets and parks without cost, the residents of the District of Columbia bore all of the expenses of the city. This was manifestly unfair. The city was laid out as the Capital of the Nation on a plan commensurate with that object and on a scale more generous than would be dreamed of for any ordinary municipality because of the cost of maintenance. As the Nation's Capital, containing much government property, it was incumbent upon the Nation to maintain it, or at the very least to bear a share of the burden of supporting it instead of imposing upon those who resided in the city the expense of paving streets twice as wide as are found in most cities and giving fire and police protection to government buildings. It should be remembered that many of the streets which run north and south and east and west are over one hundred feet

wide and that numerous avenues which cross the streets on the diagonals are from 120 to 160 feet in width.

The city of Washington was planned by Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, a French engineer officer, who during the Revolution fought bravely, endured wounds and captivity; and the work of laying out the city was completed by his successor, Major Andrew Ellicott.

The city as originally planned extended from the Potomac and Eastern Branch or Anacostia River on the south to the boundary or what is now known as Florida Avenue on the north, and to Rock Creek on the west. The land for this capital city in the wilderness was acquired from nineteen farmers, and embraced 6,111 acres. The new government was poor and could not pay for the land it needed for its capital. It asked the nineteen proprietors to convey their lands to two trustees, Thomas Beall and John Mackall Gantt, who in turn transferred 83.93 per cent. of it to three commissioners appointed to lay out the District and city for the permanent use of the government of the United States, and returned 16.07 per cent. of it to the grantors on the following conditions:

3,606 acres without any payment whatever, for streets and avenues. Thus 59 per cent. of the total area acquired became thoroughfares.

982 acres for the government to divide into lots and sell, the proceeds being used in paying at \$66 an acre for 541 acres for public use and toward the construction of public buildings.

541 acres paid for from the proceeds of the sale of the 982 acres above referred to and therefore costing the government nothing.

982 acres returned to the grantors.

6,111 acres in all.

It is seen, therefore, that the only land which the original proprietors were paid for was 541 acres, but

that these 541 acres cost the government nothing as it paid for them from the proceeds of the sale of 982 acres which were given to it. The new government, therefore, obtained 5,129 acres of the 6,111 acres in the new Federal City without the payment of a cent. Was a shrewder deal ever consummated? In addition to obtaining some money also for the construction of public buildings from the sale of the land given to it which was divided into 10,136 building lots, the new government accepted gifts of \$72,000 from Maryland and of \$120,000 from Virginia toward the construction of public buildings. While these amounts were really offered as inducements by those states to secure the establishment of the new seat of government on the Potomac it is strange, nevertheless, that since the government has become so great and so rich it has not generously offered to return these sums. It has not, however, but on the other hand has opposed propositions to return it, effort having been made to obtain an appropriation by Congress to cover the Virginia donation of \$120,000 in order that it might be used toward the construction of a great highway from the Nation's Capital to the home of its founder at Mt. Vernon. Whether the contributions came as inducements or as loans makes little difference. They were made when the government needed them and they should now be returned. Even after securing these donations, it was obliged to borrow \$250,000 more from the state of Maryland to use in the erection of public buildings, and the government was so poor that it could not get this loan without the personal guarantee of the three Commissioners who laid out the District of Columbia.

David Burnes, one of the original proprietors, with whom Washington had much trouble in inducing him to accept the terms offered, lived in a little cottage which until about 1892 stood in the southeast corner

of the square in which the Pan-American Bureau is located. This cottage was one of the earliest houses built in what is now the District of Columbia. David Burnes's daughter, Marcia, married Hon. John P. Van Ness who had served as a member of Congress from the state of New York. On account of his acceptance of the office of Major of Militia in the District of Columbia, his seat in Congress was declared vacant January 17, 1803. He built a fine house on the site of the present Pan-American Bureau. This house, designed by Latrobe, who was for many years architect of the Capitol, was of such proportions that the block of ground on which it stood was called Mansion Square.

David Burnes and his wife, Anne, now rest in Rock Creek Cemetery, north of the Soldiers' Home. Many visit this cemetery to see the famous memorial by St. Gaudens of which it has been said that it was the artist's effort to portray the physical repose and the spiritual mystery of the pause which we call death.

The Act of Congress of May 3, 1802, made provision for a mayor for the city of Washington to be appointed by the President and a city council to be elected by the people. By the Act of May 4, 1812, the city council was empowered to elect a mayor annually. The law was again changed on May 15, 1820, and the Act of Congress approved that day provided for the election by the people of a mayor for a two-year term. Again on February 21, 1871, a change was made. By the Act of that date a territorial form of government for the District of Columbia was provided, consisting of a governor and a board of public works, composed of the governor and four other persons, all of whom were appointed by the President. A legislative assembly was also provided for, consisting of a council of eleven members appointed by the President, and a house of delegates consisting of twenty-two members who were

elected by the people. By this Act also the District of Columbia was given a delegate in the House of Representatives. Norton P. Chipman served as delegate from April 21, 1871, to March 4, 1875, throughout the period that the District had a spokesman in Congress. During its territorial form of government, the District of Columbia had two governors, the first being Henry D. Cooke, who served from February 28, 1871, to September 13, 1873, and the second, Alexander Robey Shepherd, who held the office from the latter date to June 30, 1874; the Act of June 20, 1874, having abolished the territorial form of government and having provided in its stead a government by a board of three Commissioners to be appointed by the President. Two of these Commissioners must be residents of the District for three years prior to appointment and the other must be an officer in the Engineer Corps of the army not below the rank of Captain.

The most important Act which Congress has passed, however, in regard to the District of Columbia, is that approved June 11, 1878, which while continuing in force the government by a board of three Commissioners, provided that after July 1, 1878, the United States government should share equally with the citizens of the District of Columbia the expense of maintaining the Nation's Capital. Since that time the development of the city has gone forward steadily, and its beautification has been the concern of Congress, as it always should have been, as well as that of the permanent residents of the city. Every citizen of the Republic, therefore, may rightly feel that Washington is not his Capital in name only but that in contributing his six cents a year, which is approximately the annual cost to each citizen of the United States in the upbuilding of the city, it is his in reality, that he is a joint owner of the seat of government.

There were in the District of Columbia at the latest census, which was taken in November, 1915, 258,940 white people and 98,809 colored, or a total of 357,749. These permanent residents of the District pay a per capita tax of about twenty dollars for every man, woman and child. It is seen from these figures that twenty-seven and sixty-two hundredths per cent. of the population is colored. The great majority of them are poor and own no property, so that to a great extent their share of the cost of maintaining the government of the District is borne by the other residents.

There has been in recent years an effort on the part of certain members of Congress to again throw upon the permanent residents the entire burden of maintaining the city of Washington which was laid out as the Federal Capital, but every man and woman, and especially every child, loves his Capital at least six cents' worth and would not have its progress retarded in order to save each year the price of the stamps for three letters.

The Act of June 20, 1874, changing the form of government of the District of Columbia, was passed principally because Alexander R. Shepherd during his term as governor had made improvements in so many places in changing the grade of streets and in paving them that the burden of the tax-payers became unbearable and the new law was an answer to their prayer for relief. Governor Shepherd is familiarly known as "Boss Shepherd," and while he was reviled by the citizens of the District during his term of office for the heavy burdens imposed upon them, his memory is revered by those who live in Washington today. He is acknowledged by everyone to have been the founder of modern Washington. His statue in bronze at the corner of Fourteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in front

of the Municipal Building is a public acknowledgment of the debt of gratitude owed to him not by the people of Washington alone, but by every lover of the beautiful Capital City of this Nation.

The city of Washington was laid out with the Capitol as its center. North Capitol Street runs directly north from the Capitol, South Capitol Street directly south, and East Capitol Street directly east. There is no West Capitol Street because the great park known as the Mall, through which it would run, extends from the Capitol to the west a distance of two miles to the Potomac River. These streets radiating from the Capitol and an imaginary line running west through the Mall divide the city into its four sections of Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest. All that part of the city between the line running west from the Capitol and North Capitol Street, being northwest of the center of the Capitol, is known as Northwest; all that part between North Capitol Street and East Capitol Street, being northeast of the center of the Capitol, is known as Northeast; all that part between East Capitol Street and South Capitol Street, being southeast of the center of the Capitol, is known as Southeast; and all that part between South Capitol Street and the line running west through the Mall, being southwest of the center of the Capitol, is known as Southwest.

On either side of North Capitol Street and South Capitol Street the streets parallel with them are numbered, the first street on the west being First Street West, the second street being Second Street West, and so on. Likewise, the first street on the east is First Street East, the second street is Second Street East, and thus they continue in numerical order as on the west. The first street running parallel with and north of East Capitol Street is A Street North, the second is

B Street North, and thus they continue alphabetically. In a similar way, the first street running parallel with and south of East Capitol Street is A Street South, the second is B Street South, and so on. There is no A Street west of the Capitol because the great park or mall west of the Capitol extends from B Street North to B Street South.

In Washington house numbers advance 100 with each succeeding block. It is clear, for instance, therefore, that the Washington Chamber of Commerce in having its headquarters at 1200 F Street, N. W., is located on F Street at the corner of 12th Street in the section of the city Northwest of the center of the Capitol. The business district and the greater part of the residential portion of the city are northwest of the Capitol, and now when an address is given, unless the section is indicated, it is understood to be Northwest.

The present system of numbering the houses was devised by E. Dwight Clapp and was adopted by the Aldermen and Common Council of Washington on November 29, 1869. Mr. Clapp died on May 31, 1916.

W Street was the last street on the north within the limits of the city as it was originally laid out, but with its growth additional streets have been located on the north. The first series after the lettered streets is in names of two syllables arranged in alphabetical order, and the second series is in names of three syllables arranged in the same sequence.

Besides these streets which radiate from the Capitol, avenues bearing the names of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland do likewise. Pennsylvania Avenue, which is generally referred to by Washingtonians as merely "The Avenue," connects the Capitol and the White House. The name of Pennsylvania, because it was the central one of the original thirteen

states, was most appropriately given to this thoroughfare in the center of the city connecting the first two public buildings erected there, one the seat of executive authority, the other the seat of legislative power and judicial supremacy in the United States. As the States of New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland adjoined Pennsylvania and with it were the center of the original Union their names were logically used to designate the other avenues running through the city at its center which, as stated, is the Capitol.

It is also interesting to note that the names of the original States of the North, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York, were given to avenues in the northern section of the city, while the names of the original Southern States, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, were given to avenues in the southern section. Vermont and Kentucky had been admitted also as states, the former on March 4, 1791, and the latter on June 1, 1792, when Ellicott's first map of the city was prepared so that the names of these states appear thereon as the names of avenues, and in accordance with the apparent plan the name of Vermont was given to an avenue in the northern part of the city, running to the northeast from the White House, while an avenue in the southern section received the name of Kentucky.

This logical system of avenue nomenclature was unfortunately changed in one case some years ago, when the name of Georgia Avenue, being the southernmost avenue of the city on account of that state being the southernmost of the original thirteen states, was at the instance of a Georgia Senator taken from it. This was done because the Avenue had not become an important thoroughfare, and when the change was made Bright-

wood Avenue, extending from 7th Street Northwest to what was then the village of Brightwood, became Georgia Avenue. At Brightwood is located Fort Stevens, where President Lincoln was under fire on July 11th and 12th, 1864, during Gen. Jubal A. Early's attempt to take Washington. In fact, this avenue, now known by the name of Georgia, extends beyond Brightwood and is the main highway into Maryland. What was formerly Georgia Avenue is now called Potomac Avenue, although it is not near the Potomac itself, but is almost parallel with the Eastern Branch of the Potomac, otherwise known as the Anacostia River. Anacostia, therefore, would have been a more appropriate designation than Potomac. It is to be regretted that street nomenclature in Washington and other cities is so easily changed, when the names which streets have borne have become well known.

By the Act of March 4, 1913, the name of Sixteenth Street, N. W., was changed to "Avenue of the Presidents" but by the Act of July 21, 1914, the old name of Sixteenth Street was restored. The name "Avenue of the Presidents" would never have been generally used. It had no significance. No president ever lived on the Street. It begins two blocks north of the White House and extends directly north from it, to be sure, so that standing at the main entrance of that building one may look to the north for a great distance up the broad thoroughfare. The name "Avenue of the Presidents" upset seriously a plan by which the city streets and avenues were designated. The word "avenue" in Washington conveys the idea that a thoroughfare so designated runs at an angle, intersecting the lettered streets running east and west, and the numbered streets running north and south. As Sixteenth Street runs

due north and south its change in name from street to avenue was misleading. The American people do not care for such high-sounding names and moreover by restoring the name of Sixteenth Street, the regular continuity of the numbered streets exists again.

One cannot pass through the streets of Washington without being impressed by their cleanliness, their width, by the absence of wires, and most of all by the trees of such great variety and beauty. Who can walk along R Street, N. W., without a feeling of gratitude for the deep shade of the lindens, on Thirteenth Street north of Iowa Circle without admiring the symmetrical horse-chestnut trees which have been likened to arboreal candelabra, or on New Jersey or Rhode Island Avenues or East Capitol Street without being grateful for the majestic American elms which line those thoroughfares? There are on the streets and avenues of Washington exclusive of those in the parks 104,306 trees. Their shade ministers to our comfort and their beauty adds to our pleasure throughout the summer. I think that their sturdy forms give us strength in the winter.

One of Washington's greatest benefactors was Truman Lanham who had charge of practically all of the planting of trees on Washington thoroughfares. He served over thirty-one years as Superintendent of Trees and Parkings and passed to his rest only a few days ago, November 11.

The statue of Andrew Jackson in Lafayette Square was the first equestrian statue erected in the United States after it became a Nation. It was designed and cast by Clark Mills who later cast the statue surmounting the dome, though the latter statue was modeled by Crawford. The statue of Jackson was unveiled on

January 8, 1853, the thirty-eighth anniversary of Jackson's victory at New Orleans. The only equestrian statue erected previously in what is now the United States was of George III. It was placed in the Bowling Green at the foot of Broadway, New York, on August 21, 1770, and was pulled down on July 9, 1776, immediately after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The material of which the statue was made, lead, thickly gilded, was sent to Litchfield, Connecticut, and was there made by the ladies of the town into bullets to be used by our troops against the friends of George III. I have been interested enough in the history of this statue to make some investigation concerning it, and have found in "Sketches and Chronicles of the Town of Litchfield, Connecticut" by Payne Kenyon Kilbourne, published in 1859, an account showing that 42,088 bullets were made out of the statue of George III.

The second equestrian statue to be erected in the National Capital was one of Washington himself. It was unveiled February 22, 1860, and one of the most active members of this Society was born on that day and on that account was named for the Father of his Country.

A friend who was making her first visit to Washington some months ago told me that she had long desired to see her Nation's Capital on account of a sense of duty but that she would come again as soon as possible because of the city's beauty. As in this friend's case so it is with every one, not only the city's history that attracts but its beauty that fascinates. These things draw us back to it. The farther we go or the longer we stay away the heavier seems the weight pulling us back. The lines of Goldsmith come to me:

“Remote, unfriended, melancholy, slow,
Or by the lazy Scheldt or wandering Po;
Or onward, where the rude Carinthian boor
Against the houseless stranger shuts the door;
Or where Campania’s plain forsaken lies,
A weary waste expanding to the skies;
Where’er I roam, whatever realms to see,
My heart untravell’d fondly turns to thee;
Still to my brother turns, with ceaseless pain,
And drags at each remove a lengthening chain.”